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Biosolids Gasification Planned For California Mega-Plant

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A wastewater facility in San Jose is making a major addition, bringing in new biomass gasification technology.

The plan is to build a waste processing mega-facility at the San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater operation to generate synthetic fuels. The facility currently "cleans an average of 110 million gallons of wastewater per day, and has the capacity to clean up to 167 million gallons per day. [It] serves eight cities with 1.4 million residents and a business sector with more than 17,000 main sewer connections," according to the city.

Under the new plans, the plant will soon treat dried biosolids from the sewage plant along with "up to 10 tons a day of storm debris, yard waste, tree trimmings, construction and demolition materials, blended with a small amount of dried biosolids from the sewage plant," the *Wichita Eagle* reported.

Local governments and the state contributed funding for the project. JUM Global will be responsible for building the plant, and ICM is supplying the technology. The project is expected to be finished within weeks.

ICM has tested various feedstock types through its gasifier technology. Feedstock types include fuel generated from municipal solid waste (RDF), tire-derived fuel mixed with RDF, and chicken litter, among other options.

The aim of this effort is to show that biomass can be used to make synthetic fuels for cars, the report said. “This demonstration project, utilizing ICM’s gasification technologies, will help advance the path to renewable

transportation fuels using waste biomass at a scale that makes economic sense," said Jon Orr, an ICM manager, per a statement.

He explained why this avenue appealed to his company.

“In one sense we are starting to lay the ground work for moving into fuels with this technology and show that we can work with a variety of feedstocks,” he said, per the news report. “This is the first, but the intention is to keep making the business case where it makes sense, and grow the business."

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